

MEDIA RELEASE

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals • Lucas State Office Building • Des Moines, IA 50319-0083

For Immediate Release:

Date: December 7, 2004
Contact: David Werning
Phone: (515) 281-7376
E-Mail: david.werning@dia.state.ia.us

State of Iowa and Winnebago Tribe Successfully Conclude Negotiations

DES MOINES, IOWA – Compact negotiations between the State of Iowa and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska have concluded, according to Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) Director Steve Young and Winnebago Tribal Chairman John Blackhawk. The provisions of the Compact remain confidential until the U.S. Department of the Interior reviews, approves, and publishes it in the Federal Register. Director Young and Chairman Blackhawk stated, “The interest of both sovereigns, the State of Iowa and the Winnebago Tribe, have been contemplated and the process has resulted in a Compact that respects and is endorsed by both sovereigns.”

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska operates the WinnaVegas Casino in Sloan. Chairman Blackhawk said he was pleased with the State’s prompt attention to the Tribe’s request to renegotiate the Compact early, adding: “Once this Compact is finalized, the Winnebago Tribe will be able to secure financing to expand its operations in Sloan, including a planned hotel.” The current Compact was for eight years and would have expired on December 31, 2006.

###